

1 **Wilton Water Commission September 26, 2013**

2 **DRAFT Minutes**

3
4 The Wilton Water Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday September 26 in
5 the Town Hall Courtroom. Present were Commissioners Tom Schultz (Chairman) and
6 Frank Edelblut; Water Superintendent Mike Bergeron; Clerk Joanna K. Eckstrom; David
7 McBee, Chuck Wagner and Pat Condon (WMSA); Arthur and Virginia Iannacci; Charlie
8 McGettigan; Herbert Stearns.

9 **Agenda:**

10 **Call to order:** Mr. Schultz called meeting to order at 6:31PM. He introduced board and
11 invited public input or comment from anyone not on the agenda – there was none.

12 **Minutes of August 22nd meeting** - motion by Mr. Condra, seconded by Mr. Edelblut,
13 these minutes as written were approved unanimously.
14 written.

15 **Accounts Receivable - billing issues / abatements, YTD revenue** - There were no
16 billing issues or abatements from Jane Farrell this month. No YTD revenue report.

17 **Accounts Payable and YTD expenditures** – payables invoices signed as needed. No
18 YTD expenditure report.

19 Mr. Schultz said the Sewer department had a \$4K deficit last year, according to town's
20 accountant.

21 Mr. Edelblut said that it is very important that (both) departments have YTD reports at
22 every meeting.

23 Budget preparation / planning should begin in October. It's hoped that Joe Torre will be
24 liaison again.

25 **WMSA requests for abatement** - WMSA sent letters on July 1st and September 5th
26 which refer to water and sewer charges going back several years. Mr. Schultz
27 reminded everyone that only water issues can be resolved by water commissioners.
28 Speaking for WMSA, Chuck Wagner, says WMSA disagrees with the 'formula' the water
29 department uses to bill for its services and WMSA believes they have been overcharged
30 – three units at \$23 each plus \$2 per thousand gallons metered. Their building is not
31 fully occupied and right now, there's no more than 6 or 7 people in building at any time.
32 WMSA seeks retroactive relief.

33 Mr. Condra thought you can't go back more than a year; Mr. Schultz said he isn't willing
34 to go back at all but would consider options going forward.

35 Charlie McGettigan, former water commissioner, said this has been an issue for a
36 long time. When building first came into service, there were 10 units billed; this was
37 reduced to 6 because of lower occupancy; and reduced again to 3 units. Mr.

38 McGettigan thought 3 units was high then as it is now because of greatly reduced use.

39 Mr. Schultz moved to change to base charge for one unit only (for future billing
40 periods). Mr. Condra amended the motion to require WMSA to notify the commission
41 when occupancy exceeded 10+ people so that commission could review (and adjust
42 bill). Seconded by Mr. Edelblut.

43 Discussion: single base charge of \$23 reflects occupancy / use of water services by
44 up to 10 people to be consistent with industrial users like Label Art and schools which is
45 based on number of students/staff. Commission will review 'occupancy' on an annual
46 basis and charge accordingly. Commission expects WMSA to notify them in the
47 meantime when occupancy changes.

48 The amended motion was approved unanimously.

49 Mr. Schultz asked if board would abate most recent bill (from June 30 reading)?
50 Consensus of commission is no – change affects bills going forward only.

51
52 **WMSA and Backflow issue** – David McBee, WMSA President, asked if there had been
53 any new developments on backflow devices. Mr. Schultz said there has been NO
54 change to Wilton's backflow policy.

55 The last time this was discussed was when Dawn Tuomala provided an update on
56 HB510, intent of which was to change RSA. (Copies of the announcement were
57 distributed at the meeting and also distributed to interested parties tonight.)

58 Mr. Edelblut said he's made a few calls but hasn't determined its relevance to Wilton
59 Water department's current policy on backflow devices. Mr. McBee wants to 'study'
60 HB510 in greater detail and have commission do the same. WMSA is concerned that
61 leaving the device in place on a dry sprinkler is a hazard. WMSA will be on agenda in
62 October.

Clerk's Note: the actual wording of HB510 was not read into the minutes however, it is inserted here as copied from legiscan.com website –

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT relative to backflow prevention valves.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in General Court convened:*

50:1 Backflow Device Requirements and Tests. RSA 485:11 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

485:11 Backflow Device Requirements and Tests. There shall be a backflow prevention device installed at every connection to a public water system if the facility connected may pose a hazard to the quality of water supplied by the public water system as determined by the department of environmental services. The facility receiving water from a public water supply shall be responsible for having such backflow prevention devices installed, serviced, and tested by individuals qualified by license or certification to perform these activities. Testing of backflow devices shall occur twice annually unless the public water supplier determines the facility poses a low hazard, in which case testing shall be performed on an annual basis. The facility receiving water from a public water supplier is responsible for ensuring that the backflow prevention device is working properly to prevent backflow into the public water system.

50:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 4, 2013

Effective Date: August 3, 2013

Arthur and Virginia Iannacci – Abbot Hill Rd – question or clarification of who pays for what with regard to his Abbot Hill Rd water hook up as discussed with commission on June 27th. Per minutes of June 27th meeting:
“Mike Bergeron updated the commissioners with background info for this project. He believes that he has a plan that will address Iannacci's low flow, low pressure condition and at same time improve service to two other customers. He estimates that materials will cost about \$3,300 and labor \$6,700 for a total cost of \$10,000. Mr. Edelblut moved that the water department pay up to \$3,300 for materials costs (for Iannacci's and other two houses), subject to getting a second bid on materials and labor / construction costs being borne entirely by Iannacci's. Motion carried unanimously.”

lannaccis have gotten a \$20K+ quote from Wetherbee (which includes materials). Commissioners confirmed their original decision – the water department is willing to pay for materials (up to \$3300) to give them (and two other houses) better service but labor costs are their responsibility. They need to get other quotes and if project is to be done this year, it needs to be by November 1st (cut-off date for digging on state road).

Herbert Stearns – Mr. Stearns asked an abatement of a \$20 fee for being a day late paying last water bill; he also expressed concern that staff wasn't very polite about collecting. The late fee was looked into with town office staff; on a motion by Mr. Edelblut, seconded by Mr. Schultz, the late fee is to be abated and will be reflected as a \$20 credit toward the next water bill (reading on/about 9/30/13); vote unanimous.

* **Grant update (Mr. Edelblut)** Mike Bergeron updated labor / materials info; application should be ready to go next week; if awarded this is 50/50. Water department's portion will be included in the 2014 budget.

* **Follow up - water department / public works business relationship (Mr Condra)** Mr Condra has spoken with Steve Elliott about WWW having an item in its budget to hire the highway department. Mr. Elliott is willing to provide equipment and personnel but requests for same are to go between the Water Superintendent (Mike Bergeron) and Public Works Director (Steve Elliott), preferably with advance notice. The backhoe will not be loaned to Mr. Bergeron to operate because he is not a town employee. When backhoe is needed, it will come with an operator / highway department employee. There was a question about who would clear snow from around the hydrants? This is Elliott's responsibility.

If highway department needs to borrow water department equipment, same protocol is expected – that is Mr. Elliott will schedule with Mr. Bergeron.

* **Dakota / Pine Valley Update** Mr. Bergeron said project has had some set-backs. A huge jack-hammer had to be brought in to get through ledge. That delayed things for about a week but they're back on track now. Although the water department may end up paying slightly more than \$60K for materials, since the labor costs are being paid by the developers, it's turned out to be a worthwhile project.

* **Water Superintendent Mike Bergeron Report** Mr. Bergeron elaborated on the other projects he's been involved with in the past month. An 8" valve has been replaced

and he's completed testing required by the state. He reported that a water line was broken in the Maple Street sewer project. That has been repaired and the sewer department contractors are paying more attention to water line mapping that Mr. Bergeron did. In the Pine Valley project, three new hydrants will be installed. The hydrant at Label Art will be replaced in October.

* **Emory & Garrett report** – the updated report on the Quinn project has been delayed. Dan Tinkham has been contacted and report is expected soon. If not received by 1st week of October, Clerk will follow up.

* **Discuss any other business to come before the Board.**

Commission has received request for meeting with DES to discuss the 'Souhegan River Water Plan'. Mr. Schultz will contact Wayne Ives to set appointment.

Mr. Edelblut asked if commission should consider buying a mower so that the superintendent doesn't need to use his personal equipment.

Mr. Condra reminded that discussion of rate changes will begin in October.

* **Next meeting date: fourth Thursday of month, October 24th.**

There being no other business before the board, meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk

transcribed / posted 9/30/13